

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**MAY 18, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Stathatos called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Vice Chair Stathatos led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:**

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
(temporarily absent)  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
Vito Cannella  
John Hammargren

**Absent**

Frank Bacio  
James Cragin  
Carl Moore

**Others Present**

Commander Detta Roberts, Sherri's  
Department  
Sergeant Dave Gutierrez, Sheriff's  
Department  
Kurt Barrow, DCFS  
Kathy New, Probation  
Jacquelyn Hayes, Auditor  
Jim Corbett  
Lee Millen, Senior Staff,  
Commission Services  
Twila P. Kerr, Commission Staff

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2005**

Due to a lack of a quorum, the approval of the Minutes of April 27, and May 11, 2005 was deferred.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

This item was deferred due to the absence of Commissioner Bacio.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS**

- **Sheriff's Department:** Commander Delta Roberts and Sergeant Dave Gutierrez presented an update on Sheriff's Department Custody Operations. Commander Roberts reported that in April 2005 the Sheriff's Department increased its bed population by 1,000, and there are plans to re-open more jail custody sites over the next three years. The beds had been previously closed due to budgetary constraints.

In March/April 2006, female inmates will be moved from Twin Tower #2 to a CRDF facility. The Sybil Brand Institute may re-open as a medium to minimum security facility, but would not house females. A brief discussion followed regarding the future plans for both facilities. The Commission expressed an interest in touring the CDRF upon completion and would like to remain informed on plans for the Sybil Brand Institute.

(Vice Chair Stathatos welcomed Kirk Barrow, DCFS, to the meeting)

- **Probation Department:** Kathy New, reported on the Probation Department's Central Placement Center for screening minors for placement. As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, the department will work to find suitable placement versus camp placement for minors 14 years and under, depending upon their offense.

Discussion on implementing a step-down program is ongoing, and staff is working with DCFS counterparts regarding group homes providing housing for the medically fragile, pregnant teens, and teens with children. There are 200 satellite facilities currently being used by the Probation Department.

(Chair Montano joined the meeting at 10:23 a.m.)

- **Auditor-Controller's Office:** Jacquelyn Hayes, Children Services Administrator, reported that the Commission's transmittal of its unsatisfactory field inspection reports are helpful to the Auditors. Following discussion, Kirk Barrow, DCFS, reported that the Westside Children's Group Home has been investigated/inspected since 2000. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, a

meeting with owners of the group home is required. Ms. Hayes and Mr. Barrow visited all the Westside sites and a do-not-refer list is being drafted.

(Sergeant Gutierrez was excused from the meeting at 10:35 a.m.)

- **Department of Children and Family Services:** Kurt Barrow, Program Auditor, DCFS, invited the Commission to participate in DCFS's training for monitors and providers. A discussion ensued regarding licensed homes with more kids than permitted. Ms. New suggested that Commissioner's contact Community Care Licensing for the case history on group homes with problems before conducting an inspection.
- **Department of Social Services:** No representative was present.
- **Department of Mental Health:** No representative was present. Commander Roberts suggested that staff contact Cora Fullmore, Mental Health, regarding attendance at the Commission's business meetings.

Commissioners thanked the department representatives for their invaluable participation and their knowledgeable responses. Commissioners expressed their sincere desire to assist the departments in their mutual goal of ensuring the safety and well being of the out-of-home placement youth.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Lee Millen, Senior Staff, reported that the conference tables are scheduled for renovation in May 2005.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montano reviewed DCFS' written response to the Board of Supervisors' Board motion. Also, in lieu of the May 25<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the Commission will attend the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Officers Memorial. Further, the Commission will attend the Commissioner's Leadership Conference on May 26, 2005.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Vice Chair Stathatos reported that she and Chair Montano will attend the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Success is Our Future banquet on Friday, May 27, 2005, Sponsored by the Probation Department. Also, copies were provided of a Los Angeles Times Article on the California Youth Authority.

## **FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS**

### **San Fernando Valley CMHC (Erickson G.H.) – 96#2**

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on May 12<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**, with no areas of concern observed or reported. The grounds were well-kept and the facility was clean and orderly.

### **Caring 4 Babies with AIDS 2 – 9#3**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren inspected this facility on May 13<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**, with no areas of concern observed or reported.

### **Caring for Babies with AIDS – 10#1**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren inspected this facility on May 13<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

## **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Montano assigned inspection duties to Commissioners for the following week.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

## **MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

There were none.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Twila P. Kerr*  
**Commission Staff**